

MASTER OF MUSIC EDUCATION (M.M.E.)

Program Overview

Designed for music educators who want to enhance their impact, the MME program helps students to improve as educators and make positive change in their classrooms and school communities. Students design their own 12-credit "focus-area" of courses tailored to their particular interests and goals and learn skills and techniques that can be immediately applied to their current teaching or used as preparation for doctoral work. Example areas of focus include choral pedagogy, choral conducting, voice pedagogy, Kodály (with certification) and music technology.

The degree is for individuals with significant music teaching experience. Students do not earn teacher certification through this degree program. The MME program may be completed part-time through online classes and summer study or over two academic years.

Music Education Courses Online

The following music education courses are offered in rotation during the summer in an online format. Students in the MME or BM-MME programs may take either the traditional or online format to complete their degree. Students in other degree programs may take these courses as free electives:

Code	Title	Credits
ME 685	Improving Musical Practice: Research in Music Education	3
ME 692	Social Justice in Music Education: History, Philosophy, and Practice	3
ME 721	Curriculum Development & Evaluation	3
ME 723	Social, Emotional, and Musical Learning	3
ME 693	Seminar in Music Educ	3

Degree Offered:

- Master of Music Education (M.M.E.)

Contact

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Program Website: Master of Music Education (<https://www.rider.edu/academics/colleges-schools/college-arts-sciences/westminster-choir-college/graduate/music-education/>)

Associated Department: Department of Music Studies

Faculty

Jason Vodicka • Associate Professor, Music Education, 2018. B.M., M.M., Westminster Choir College; D.M.A., University of Georgia.

Sarah Perry • Assistant Professor, Music Education, 2021. B.S., Elizabethtown College; M.A., Ed.D., Teachers College, Columbia University.

Master of Music Education (M.M.E.) Program Requirements

(32-33 credits)

Learn more about General Graduate Policies (<http://catalog.rider.edu/graduate/colleges-schools/arts-sciences/>).

Code	Title	Credits
ME 692	Social Justice in Music Education: History, Philosophy, and Practice	3
ME 685	Improving Musical Practice: Research in Music Education ¹	3
ME 723	Social, Emotional, and Musical Learning	3
Music Education Elective. Select one of the following courses:		3
ME 693	Seminar in Music Educ	
or ME 682	Choral Music Education	
or ME 721	Curriculum Development & Evaluation	
or ME 730	Pedagogy and Practice	
or ME 771	Critical Pedagogy for Music Ed	
Complete 1 credit in one of the following courses:		1
ME 650	Thesis	
or ME 775	MME Capstone	
Core Elective³		3
Music History/Music Theory Elective		3
Choral Experience ²		1-2
Free Elective		3
Area of Emphasis ⁴		9
Total Credits		32-33

¹ ME 685 prepares students to write the thesis for the course ME 650. However, with permission of the Music Education Department students may substitute MH 731, Introduction to Musicology. Students should plan on at least one full year to complete the thesis after taking a research course.

² Students may take any approved WCC Ensemble, including CR 509 Symphonic Choir; CR 513 Williamson Voices; CR 515 Westminster Kantorei; CR 517 Master Singers; SM 509 Jubilee Singers; SM 519 Concert Handbell Choir I; Choral Institute at Oxford; Conducting Institute; Summer Choral Festival, or another WCC ensemble by approval of the department chair.

³ The core elective must be a single, 3-credit graduate-level course outside the student's major area, area of emphasis, and/or area of applied study.

⁴ Emphasis must be formally presented to the department chair or advisor for approval. Suggested courses include Seminar in Music Education, Curriculum Development, Pedagogy and Practicum, Conducting, Conducting Institute, Oxford, Choral Pedagogy Institute, Kodaly I, II, III, ATM4, VC/OR/PI study, Theory/Comp., Music Theatre, Popular Music, CP, MVP courses, School of Ed. courses, etc.

Notes:

1. Students may elect to complete New Jersey approved teacher certification courses at the undergraduate level in conjunction with this degree program. Courses taken at the undergraduate degree

level do not count towards the completion of the MME degree.

Candidates who wish to complete teacher certification must plan on three semesters of study during the academic year.

2. Students complete a thesis as the capstone experience in the degree. Information about the thesis is contained in the Music Education Thesis and Capstone Handbook (http://www.rider.edu/sites/default/files/docs/wcc_musiced_grad_thesis-2016.pdf) found on the Music Education website. Students should plan at least one year to complete the thesis.

Courses and Descriptions

ME 563 Art of Teaching Music III 4 Credits

Through course assignments, discussion, and clinical practice in varied school and community choral settings, course participants learn how to create meaningful elementary music experiences that foster individual success, accountability, a sense of accountability, critical thinking, independence, and life-long engagement with choral music.

Prerequisite(s): Minimum grade of C- in ME 262, successful completion of Sophomore Review, and must obtain substitute teaching credentials.

ME 564 Art of Teaching Music IV 4 Credits

Through course assignments, discussion, and clinical practice in varied school and community choral settings, course participants learn how to create meaningful school singing experiences that foster individual success, accountability, a sense of community, critical thinking, independence, and life-long engagement with choral music.

Prerequisite(s): Minimum grade of C- in ME 262, successful completion of Sophomore Review, and must obtain NJ substitute teaching credentials.

ME 587 Music in Special Education 1 Credits

This course is designed to acquaint the pre-service teacher with the special needs of exceptional children in music classes. Students learn to adapt instruction to accommodate a variety of exceptionalities that are both physical and emotional. Content includes categories of special students, characteristic behaviors, mainstreaming, and classroom methodology. Course content, activities and experiences in this course cover New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards for Music and prepares students to meet the New Jersey Professional Standards for Teaching. It is recommended that students take this course before the student teaching semester. Restricted to Seniors only.

ME 592 Creativity & Music Technology 2 Credits

Creativity and Technology in the Music Classroom is designed to prepare students to foster musical creativity using a variety of approaches and tools. In particular, students will use equipment such as digital audio workstations, MIDI controllers, microphones, and SmartBoards to facilitate rich and engaging creative experiences. Students will explore ways to structure learning experiences in response to the needs and interests of students, and will examine current thinking and trends related to the uses of creativity and technology in the music classroom.

Prerequisite(s): Junior status or permission of instructor.

ME 650 Thesis 1 Credits

Independent research under faculty supervision leading to the writing of a master's thesis. Students register for this course in every semester or summer term in which assistance is provided by the thesis advisor.

Prerequisite(s): ME 685 (preferred) or MH 731; Permission of the Chair for Music Education is required to register for this course.

ME 682 Choral Music Education 3 Credits

This course is designed to assist choral music educators to improve their pedagogical effectiveness. This course will provide students with the knowledge, skills and dispositions necessary for developing comprehensive musicianship in the choral ensemble setting through the study of creating original music, responding to music, connecting to students and performing vocal/choral music with a primary focus on choral pedagogy, curriculum development, unit and rehearsal planning, programming, vocal development, program management, music literacy pedagogy, music technology and assessment.

ME 685 Improving Musical Practice: Research in Music Education 3 Credits

Intended for students in the MME and BM-MME degree programs, this course focuses on research as a tool for improving practice. Course members will read qualitative and quantitative research studies and consider the impact of research on their teaching. Course members will also plan and conduct original research that will help them to analyze their specific teaching contexts, identify and conduct inquiry into problems, and refine their practice as educators.

ME 692 Social Justice in Music Education: History, Philosophy, and Practice 3 Credits

The purpose of this course is two-fold. First, the course will explore the historical perspectives that have significantly shaped and informed music teaching and learning within American public education during the last century. Second, students will encounter, engage with, and interrogate philosophies and theories of practice from social justice perspectives in order to critically consider the place and purpose of music and music education within educational and societal contexts.

ME 693 Seminar in Music Educ 3 Credits

While the topics vary from year to year, international perspectives in music education form the foundation for this seminar.

ME 721 Curriculum Development & Evaluation 3 Credits

This course examines the relationship between curriculum theory and philosophy of music education. Through the study of traditional and contemporary models of curriculum development and evaluation, students broaden their understanding of curriculum as it impacts the learning process. Post modern theory consistent with the Department's commitment to Critical Pedagogy for Music Education provide the focal point for the development of curricula that enhance and support quality music education. Course content, activities and experiences in this course covers New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards for Music and prepares students to meet the New Jersey Professional Standards for Teaching.

ME 723 Social, Emotional, and Musical Learning 3 Credits

This course examines topics in psychology of music from the lens of social emotional learning. This theoretical lens will allow students to find the relationships between music-making as social and cultural practices and the development of individual and collective psychological process in music teaching and learning. Major topics include affective and physiological responses to music, musical enculturation, learning theory, well-being and wellness, musical aptitude, developmental processes, and motivation. Students will discuss literature in the psychology of music with applications to K-12 music classes and rehearsals and conduct a pilot study in an area of interest based upon knowledge from the literature.

ME 730 Pedagogy and Practice 3 Credits

This course explores the intersection of philosophy, psychology, pedagogy and practice by providing students with guided teaching experiences connected to their current teaching situation. Throughout the course, students will be challenged to evaluate their own teaching against philosophical, psychological, pedagogical, and research-based models of music instruction. In addition to guided teaching experiences, students will participate in a weekly seminar class during which they will share and reflect on their experiences in the field and discuss topics pertinent to teaching and learning music.

ME 771 Critical Pedagogy for Music Ed 3 Credits

This course presents the fundamental concepts, contexts and constructs that define Critical Pedagogy for Music Education. It focuses on the application of critical theory as a philosophical perspective to inform decisions teachers make when planning instruction for their students.

ME 775 MME Capstone 1 Credits

Independent research leading to a completed capstone project, such as curriculum and assessment development, pedagogical publication or presentation, instructional materials, etc. The project must be approved by the department.

Prerequisite(s): ME 685 and permission of the Music Education Chair.